

**REMARKS**

Applicant has filed concurrently herewith a U.S. national phase application based on International Application No. PCT/IB2002/002516. The claims of the International application were amended under Article 34. (See "Amended Sheets", attached to "Notification of Transmittal of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability", a copy of which is also being filed concurrently herewith.) Thus, claims 1-23, as amended under Article 34, are pending in this U.S. national phase application. The text of those claims, as amended under Article 34, appears in the foregoing listing of claims (without showing, however, by way of strike-through or underlining, the deletions or additions that were made).

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended claims 3-5, 8-12, 15 and 21-23 to remove multiple dependencies. Deletions and additions are shown by strike-through and underlining, respectively. No new matter has been presented. Moreover, the status of the other pending claims (i.e., those not amended herein) is indicated as being either (1) "Previously Presented", if the text of a claim differs from that of a claim of the same number found in the originally filed International Application as a result of the Article 34 amendment or (2) "Canceled" if a claim of the same number was part of the originally filed International application, but was deleted by the Article 34 amendment.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to calculation of the application filing fee and examination on the merits. An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

**AUTHORIZATION**

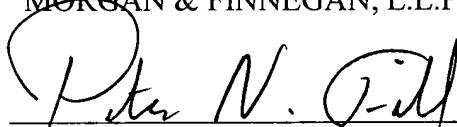
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4224. A DUPLICATE OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4224. A DUPLICATE OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: December 17, 2004

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